HARBOUR WORKS—RECRUITMENT OF LABOUR—RULES REGARDING

90. Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) in recruiting ordinary labour, is there any rule or practice or custom followed in the Harbour Works;

(*b*) if so, what;

(*c*) are Government aware that men who have worked long years in the Harbour are thrown out and sometimes preference given to new recruits?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) Government have no information.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Did the Government call for information?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* These are all minor matters of internal administration.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is the welfare of the people working in the Harbour not a matter of importance to Government?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* A very responsible authority is there. The Government expect that they would do things quite properly and Government thought that it is not fair and proper to interfere in these minor matters.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is not the Government of Cochin a responsible government to whom we are putting questions? Are you not partners in the Harbour?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I have already explained that our Government do not interfere with the routine administration.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* I want to know whether there is any rule or practice with regard to the labour, because it affects a large number of people in my constituency. People are coming to me and complaining that they are being sent out, people who have got 13 and 14 years' of work to their credit are simply turned out for no reasons. These are the things that will bring revolution in the country. People are starving. People with 4 or 5 children to maintain, after 15 or 18 years' of hard work in the Harbour, going into mud, going into water and losing their health, are simply asked to go away and favourites are put in their places. That is the complaint. Therefore, I ask whether there is a practice or custom followed.

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Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Has the Government made any attempt to get the information?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* No.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know whether Cochin State is not one of the partners?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Is it difficult for the Government to get such information as is necessary?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* There is no difficulty to get the information. But we thought matters of routine administration there may well be left to the very responsible body there. They could well be trusted to do things properly and equitably.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Will the Government be pleased to instruct the persons representing Cochin State in the Advisory Board of the Harbour that hereafter they should look into these matters very carefully?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I do not think it is within the purview of the Advisory Board.

Mr. C. R Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Why not scrape up this Advisory Committee?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* We will instruct our Members on the Advisory Board to have an eye on such matters.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Now that the Government has heard complaints in this House, will the Government be pleased either to make an enquiry into the matter, whether the welfare of the citizens of Cochin is well cared, or whether they are ill-treated or maltreated or well-treated?

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* You can conduct your enquiries here, but not there.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* How is it that the Cochin Government has no information in this matter?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Even in partnership concerns there is a Managing Director and this Managing Director is given certain functions and duties. The other partners expect him to do things properly.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Are the other partners expected not to know these things?

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Is Cochin a sleeping partner?

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മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ: കൊച്ചി ഹാർബർ സർവ്വീസ്സിൽ കൊച്ചിക്കാക്കുള്ള പ്രാതിനിദ്ധ്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഗവമ്മെണ്ട് വല്ലതും പോട്ട്ധികാരികളോട് ചോദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. റാഫേൽ: ഉവ്വ്.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ: അതുപോലെ ഇതിലും ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു് ചോദിക്കാമായിരുന്നില്ലെ ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. റാഫേൽ: ചോദിക്കാൻ വിരോധമില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ: ഉദ്യോഗപ്രാതിനിദ്ധ്യക്കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു് ആവശ്യമായ വിവരം തന്നതുപോലെ ഈ കാര്യത്തിലും ചോദിച്ചാൽ തരുകയില്ലെ ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. റാഫേൽ: ചോദിക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയുടെ ഗൌരവംനോക്കീട്ടുവേണ്ടെ ചോദിക്കുവാൻ.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ: ഈ ലേബർ കാര്യമാണു് ഇന്നത്തെ ഏറ്റവും പ്രധാനമായ പ്രോബ്ലം.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):*Are the Government aware that when the cooly emigrants of Ceylon were not treated properly, the Madras Government interfered?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Similarly, we will also interfere if we have occasion for it.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* The welfare of the masses is your first concern. In the first concern you do not ask for the information. I cann't understand it.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* The policy of the Government is that they won't make any attempt to collect any information regarding the Harbour.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* We will and we are doing also.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will the Government be pleased to collect the necessary information and see that the interests of the Cochin labourers are safeguarded?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes, whenever that becomes necessary.

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